



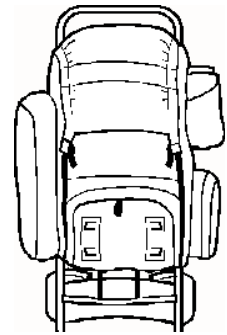
Handy Hints with Dennis Figg

CHOOSING A BACKPACK

FIT: Try on several styles. If possible, fill the pack with the type of items you plan to carry and walk around with it to see if it rides comfortably when full. Use a reputable outfitter and have the pack fitted to your back

STYLE/EXTERNAL FRAME PACKS: Simpler design (fewer adjustments), lighter weight, holds pack away from your body so they're cooler to carry in hot weather, more convenient (unzip the main compartment and any equipment is within reach), less expensive (\$80-\$150).

STYLE/INTERNAL FRAME PACKS: Better for balance (load rides down low, close to your back), better for winter (seals better against snow), better for off-trail and rock scrambling, fewer breakable parts, more expensive (\$150-\$500).



QUALITY: Look for function, not form...be wary of packs with too many bells & whistles and dangling straps. Complicated packs are confusing to use and have more breakable parts. A good pack doesn't rub or hurt or drag. A good pack is sturdy and feels as if you're wearing it, not carrying it. And remember, bigger is NOT better. A full small pack rides better than a half-

